

**Memorandum of the Meeting
Regular Study Session/Meeting
Twenty-Sixth Town Council of Highland
Monday, December 13, 2010**

The regular study session of the Twenty-Sixth Town Council of the Town of Highland was convened at the regular place, the Highland Municipal, 3333 Ridge Road, Highland, Indiana, in the plenary meeting chambers on **Monday, December 13, 2010** at the time of 7:09 o'clock p.m.

Silent Roll Call: Councilors Bernie Zemen, Brian Novak, Konnie Kuiper and Mark A. Herak were present. Councilor Dan Vassar was absent owing to work commitment. A quorum was attained. The Clerk-Treasurer Michael W. Griffin was present to memorialize the proceedings.

Others present: Kenneth J. Mika, Building Commissioner; William R. Timmer, Jr. CFOD, Fire Chief; and John M. Bach, Public Works Director were also present.

Also, Jacqui Herrera and Daniel Watkins, Purdue University Students, were present as part of an English class project regarding advocating for Bus Stop Shelters in Highland.

General Substance of Matters Discussed

1. The Town Council with the Building Commissioner discussed the petition regarding a variance on 9632 Waymond for a use variance. The ABZA has favorably recommended the request. It was noted that the zoning is B-1 but the place was used as a residence. The long-time resident died and the survivors have a buyer provided the use as a residence is preserved.

The Building Commissioner further briefed the Town Council on a ABZA petition regarding a use a variance on 10328 Indianapolis Boulevard, a sign located at that site is there as a legal non-conforming use. LAMAR outdoor wishes to modify/modernize the current sign. The BZA has recommended favorably on the petition.

The Council President expressed his wish that the matters be placed upon the Agenda for the Plenary Business meeting of December 20, 2010.

The Town Council and the Building Commissioner discussed a few building enforcement issues and the progress on Michael's Arts and Crafts Retailer locating in the site of the former Circuit City Retail Store at Highland Grove Shopping Mall.

The Building Commissioner departed at this time.

2. The Town Council received a report from Ms. Herrera and Mr. Watkins from Purdue University Calumet English students, dealing with an actual problem. The problem identified was the establishment of bus stop shelters for school buses. Ms. Herrera and Mr. Watkins identified themselves as Highland residents and as parents. Ms. Herrera and Mr. Watkins presented information in support of the establishment of bus stops. It was noted that the Town of Burns Harbor installed such bus stop shelters as those being proposed. Culvert concrete pipe was modified to make the shelters. It was noted that at the time they were installed, they cost \$350 each.

It was noted that the School Town has not been approached. During discussion, it was noted that the Town Council expressed concern about liability and funding. It was also suggested that the School Town may be more appropriate as the body of jurisdiction.

3. The Town Council and the Public Works Director discussed a proposed property-swap that is being sought by the Board of Sanitary Commissioners related to its Homestead Gardens Retention Basin. The Public Works Director presented a platted diagram with legal description. It is noted that the parcels may be exchanged between and by the civil

government and a private property owner, in this case, Dan Spoljoric, 3500 Grand Boulevard, Highland. IC 36-1-11-7 will be reviewed.

4. The Public Works Director and the Town Council discussed a disciplinary action with an employee involving insubordination by that worker exhibited about and to the Town Council during the recent Employees Award Dinner event. It was noted that the worker was confronted today and that the worker is on suspension. The worker is also a firefighter and the Fire Chief was present in order to coordinate any discipline between the two assignments.
5. The Town Council discussed a random drug sampling of CDL workers and whether or not the other workers should be subject to sampling as well. The discussion included whether or not there should be a required test after a reportable accident.
6. The Town Council and the Public Works Director discussed Flags displays at the Highway of Flags Memorial and whether or not a Flag was on display for Veterans Day. It was noted that there were Flags on all masts for Veterans Day.
7. The Town Council discussed ways and means of reducing paper as part of the meeting process. The discussion noted that there was a joint purchasing opportunity with the Northwest Indiana Educational Service Center for paper. The bid was excellent but we need to make space by disposing of some unfit and worthless items.
8. The Town Council discussed perhaps changing the start time of the Study Session of December 27, 2010 to begin at 5:00 p.m. This will be on the agenda for action at its meeting.
9. Town Council discussed the like items for the agenda on Monday, December 20, 2010. The Town Council also discussed the proposal from Ted Sommer of London Witte Group, LLC for the Municipal Utility Group and continuing the advocacy and monitoring of the NIPSCO Electric Rate Case I and II. The group includes Dyer, Munster, Griffith, Highland, Schererville, East Chicago, and Winfield.
10. The Town Council discussed the Life and AD&D group insurance as presented by the IACT Medical Trust. It was noted that it represented a 30% reduction in cost. The Town Council suggested that it be brought back before the Town Council for its consideration and action.

There being no further business to be discussed by the Town Council, the regular study session of the Town Council, of **Monday, December 13, 2010**, was adjourned 9:22 p.m. o'clock p.m.

Michael W. Griffin, IAMC/MMC/CPFA
Clerk-Treasurer